

2014 Annual Report

Alliance Selects Missouri Gaming Association Executive as 2015 Chairperson

'2015 Will See an Improved Alliance'

Since the Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling's inception back in 1997, we have made significant strides to educate Missouri citizens about problem gambling and offer help for those who may have a gambling problem; 2014 was no exception.

With more than 250 participants, the 2014 Midwest Conference on Problem Gambling and Substance Abuse (MCPGSA) was easily one of the most successful Midwest Conferences in the past decade. I would personally like to commend those Alliance members who were involved in the planning process and those who were in attendance for their continued dedication to raising awareness and providing help for those in need.

Last year's Midwest Conference wasn't the only productive endeavor for the Alliance. The Alliance continued offering free help for citizens with gambling addictions through the Bets Off campaign, which includes the toll free help line (1-888-BETSOFF), the Bets Off website (www.888betsoff.org) and email address (freehelp@888betsoff.org). Other key programs and services provided by the Alliance included the Voluntary Exclusion Program, also known as the List of Disassociated Persons (DAP) for casino patrons, the Self-Exclusion Program (SEP) for Lottery players and free compulsive gambling treatment services. Statistics for each of these services can be found inside this publication.

The Alliance will continue to work on these various programs through 2015, while implementing additional platforms to better serve Missouri citizens and gamblers. We will also begin additional efforts into researching gambling in Missouri, among other endeavors.

As the Alliance's 2015 chairperson, I am eagerly looking forward to working with all of you in hopes of growing our organization to further educate Missouri citizens about problem gambling and assist problem gamblers. Thank you to each and every Alliance member for your continued dedication to problem gambling and to the state of Missouri.

Mike Winter
Alliance Chairperson



An Overview of the Alliance

The Missouri Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling, which was created in 1997, is a partnership between the Missouri Council on Problem Gambling Concerns Inc., the Missouri Department of Mental Health's Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse, the Missouri Gaming Association, the Missouri Gaming Commission, the Missouri Lottery, the Port Authority of Kansas City and a recovery community representative.

The purpose of the Alliance is to educate Missourians on the potential characteristics and dangers of problem and compulsive gambling, to refer compulsive gamblers and their family and friends to free treatment through a toll-free help line and/or email address, to prevent underage play and to promote responsible gaming.

To learn more about the Alliance, visit 888betsoff.org.

www.888betsoff.org

MISSOURI ALLIANCE
TO CURB PROBLEM GAMBLING

Missouri Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling Service Highlights

Problem Gambling Help Line: 1-888-BETSOFF (1-888-238-7633)

Life Crisis Services (LCS) operates a 24-hour help line service for callers seeking help for a gambling problem. The Missouri Gaming Association provides the funding for the help line. LCS received a total of 2,073 calls during calendar year 2014.

Free Compulsive Gambling Treatment Services

The Missouri Department of Mental Health's Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse contracts with certified compulsive gambling counselors to provide free treatment services to compulsive gamblers and their family members. Family members can access services regardless of whether the problem gambler enters treatment. During calendar year 2014, 537 clients accessed the free treatment services. Individuals seeking referral to a counselor in a specific area can call the help line at 1-888-BETSOFF (1-888-238-7633).

Bets Off Website: 888betsoff.org

The Bets Off website features a list of Missouri-certified compulsive gambling counselors and information about problem gambling, the Voluntary Exclusion Program, the Missouri Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling, the Bets Off Bulletin and more.

Voluntary Exclusion Program

The Missouri Gaming Commission administers a statewide self-exclusion program for casino patrons who identify as problem and pathological gamblers. The voluntary exclusion program is also known as the List of Disassociated Persons (DAP). A total of 778 individuals were approved for DAP placement during calendar year 2014.

Individuals have the option of choosing to be placed on DAP for a lifetime or temporary exclusion. Additional details can be found at mgc.dps.mo.gov.

Missouri Lottery Self-Exclusion Program

The Missouri Lottery's voluntary Self-Exclusion Program (SEP) is a responsible gaming resource for players who classify themselves as problem or pathological gamblers to reduce the incentive to play Lottery games. It launched Aug. 1, 2013. SEP allows players to enter into voluntary lifetime self-ban agreements with the Lottery, prohibiting those individuals from claiming prizes of more than \$600 and accessing the *My Lottery Players Club*.

SEP agreements can be downloaded at MOLottery.com or obtained at any Lottery office or sent through the mail. Forms must be completed entirely and notarized. Since the inception of SEP, two individuals have signed up for the program.

Statistics

Calendar Year	Bets Off Help Line	Voluntary Exclusion (DAP)	Free Treatment	SEP
1998	871	356	54	N/A
1999	1,034	596	113	N/A
2000	1,738	1,093	186	N/A
2001	2,846	1,403	335	N/A
2002	2,889	1,290	373	N/A
2003	3,339	1,367	344	N/A
2004	3,527	1,506	377	N/A
2005	2,593	1,696	360	N/A
2006	1,834	1,553	370	N/A
2007	1,682	1,412	358	N/A
2008	1,915	1,279	332	N/A
2009	2,263	896	343	N/A
2010	2,740	797	368	N/A
2011	2,093	790	231	N/A
2012	2,454	1,023	168	N/A
2013	2,057	961	154	1
2014	2,073	778	537	2

2015 Calendar

June 24-26

12th Annual Midwest Conference on Problem Gambling and Substance Abuse, Kansas City, Mo., MCPGSA.org

July 10-11

29th National Conference on Problem Gambling, Baltimore, Md., ncpgambling.org

August

Missouri's Responsible Gaming Education Month

Free Presentations Available for Missouri Events

The Missouri Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling offers free presentations and exhibitors for events and conferences focusing on problem gambling. We provide speakers on topics ranging from the prevention of youth gambling to the warning signs of problem gambling.

For more information about the speakers' bureau or to arrange a free presentation, call (573) 526-7467, or email Connor.Stieferman@molottery.com.

Alliance Award Nominations Accepted Until May 1

Please remember to nominate a colleague who contributes their time to the problem gambling field and has gone above and beyond their duties for an award on behalf of the Alliance.

2015 Outstanding Contributor Award

Awarded to an individual, group, organization or company outside of the Missouri Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling's voting membership, who has demonstrated superior achievement in addressing issues of problem and pathological gambling.

2015 Service Award

Awarded to an individual or representative of a member organization – voting or participating – who has contributed to the Missouri Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling in an extraordinary manner.

Nominations are due by May 1. Visit 888betsoff.org to download a nomination form.



Free Beat Addition Programs Still Available

Have you requested your copy of the award-winning “Beat Addiction: Choose the Right Path” youth addiction prevention program? If not, you can still receive a free kit!

Sponsored by the Missouri Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling, the kit features a 30-minute DVD featuring four personal stories from a diverse cast in recovery from various addictions, a facilitator's guide and a poster. The program was designed for Missouri students in grades 6 through 12, but it can be used for other age groups, as well.

To view a sample of the program, visit 888betsoff.org. To order your free copy, please call (573) 526-7467 or email Connor.Stieferman@molottery.com.

‘Partnering Science and Communities’ – The 12th Annual Midwest Conference *June 24-26*

The Midwest Consortium on Problem Gambling and Substance Abuse (MCPGSA) is excited to announce the 12th annual Midwest Conference will be held June 24-26 at the Hilton Kansas City Airport. Gambling and substance abuse prevention specialists, professionals and interested parties alike are invited to register for the three-day conference.

This year's conference, titled “Partnering Science and Communities,” will focus on various topics related to current gambling and substance abuse issues in communities. Like past years, the conference will host exceptional speakers and presenters offering their expertise on issues ranging from cultural differences on abuse, to recent science and research findings, to emerging addictions and more.

The 2015 Midwest Conference is being held at the newly renovated Hilton Kansas City Airport. Situated 15 minutes from downtown Kansas City and only five minutes from trendy Zona Rosa Town Center, the hotel is near a diverse palate of lively shops, restaurants and entertainment venues within a short drive. The Hilton also offers a complimentary shuttle service for guests' convenience.

Don't miss your chance to earn continuing education units (CEUs), expand your knowledge about the mental health profession and network with industry colleagues. Visit MCPGSA.com to access conference registration and reserve your room at the Hilton Kansas City Airport. Check back often, as more information will be updated closer to the conference date. If you are interested in exhibiting or sponsoring at the Midwest Conference, please contact Connor Stieferman at Connor.Stieferman@molottery.com.



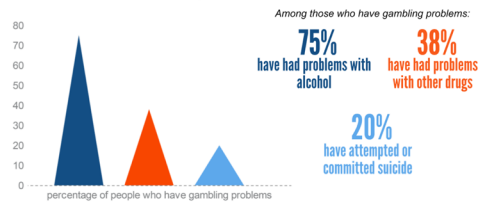


Gambling Activity



Over 5 Million Americans meet criteria for gambling addiction

Beyond the Basics



Signs of Problem Gambling

- Argumentative and defensive about gambling behavior
- Unexplained absences for long periods of time
- Lies to loved ones about gambling behavior
- Going without basic needs in order to gamble
- Borrowing money to gamble

Help & Hope

If you or a loved one needs help with a gambling problem, call **1.800.522.4700**

Have the conversation about problem gambling and help someone in need

- Family
- Co-workers
- Friends
- Doctors and Counselors

FOR MORE INFO, VISIT:
www.ncpgam.org



Have the Conversation About Problem Gambling

This past March, members of the Missouri Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling, in conjunction with the National Council on Problem Gambling (NCPG), honored the second annual National Problem Gambling Awareness Month by focusing their efforts to spotlight the issue of problem gambling. The goal of the month-long awareness campaign was to educate the public about the warning signs of problem gambling and promote the availability of help offered locally and nationally.

In addition to promoting the Bets Off services and the “Free Help is on The Horizon” campaign, the Missouri Alliance also distributed a series of public service announcements to radio stations.

“With this campaign, we want to encourage everyone to ‘Have the Conversation about Problem Gambling,’” said Mike Winter, chairperson of the Missouri Alliance and executive director of the Missouri Gaming Association. “Since most adults are aware of gambling or know someone who gambles, we want all Missourians to be aware of the free help that is available to them.”

“On behalf of the Alliance, the Missouri Lottery is continuing distribution of the current ‘Help is on the Horizon’ campaign to be featured via billboards and other publications available to the public,” said May Scheve Reardon, executive director of the Missouri Lottery. “We want to ensure that people who may have a problem are aware of the resources available to them. None of this would be possible without the dedication of the healthcare professionals who specialize in this field.”

On a national level, the NCPG provides free problem gambling screening tools for healthcare professionals in all fields on their website, ncpgambling.org. Additionally, free publicity materials such as a press release, fact sheets, public service announcements, a sample proclamation, media tips and an infographic (featured to the left) can be found on the website.



1-888-BETSOFF

BETSOFF BULLETIN is produced by the Missouri Lottery for the Missouri Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling.
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The Missouri Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling's mission is to heighten public awareness for the dangers of problem gambling; develop prevention and education programs for gamblers of all ages; and direct problem gamblers and their families to the 1-888-BETSOFF help line and treatment.